

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

The slang wordshare ungrammatical words or phrases which are used by a particular group. In the pertinent literature, most definitions of slang show a tendency towards a sociological view of the phenomenon. This view is accepted among others, by Eble (1996) and Munro who basically regard slang “as a social means of identification and cohesiveness within a group”. Slang first was known as thieves cant. Hotten (1859:5) in his book *The Slang Dictionary* says that slang is the secret language of Gipsies, accordance with Eble (1996) who states that slang is said to serve anti-social purpose such as marking social differences and hiding secret information or improper behavior from them. In particular, slang is viewed as in group vocabulary that certain subclasses in society, like criminals, drug addicts, thieves, professional beggars and other groups operating on the fringes society as their secret language to keep the content of their conversation private.

Today slang is used by everyone in daily conversations of informal situations due to the condition that slang is inappropriate using in formal situations. In addition, the language users will find that native speakers are not speaking like textbooks do except in very formal situations. This is why it is very useful to learn slang and informal languages, especially if language users want to sound like a native speaker rather than a foreigner. It is also useful for the listeners

to understand what natives say because slang has been take part of everyday language especially for the youth. For examples, the speakers will say “I’ll catch ya later” instead of “I’ll see you later” or “Look that hottie!” instead of “Look! There is a handsome man!” If these two sentences are translated literally, the listeners or the readers will get confused with the meanings. Slang sometimes give the language users new words or the old words to the new uses.

Speaking in general, slang is a sociocultural practice that speakers use for such social purposes such as showing the same speech-level with audience, showing social intercourse, and showing friendliness or intimacy. Slang typically consists of new words or wide meanings, and develops to find fresh, spirited, colorful, harsh or humorous expressions.

There are a lot of variations within languages, and as the consequence is that the speakers do not speak in the same way to the listeners in all situations. If people only speak textbook language, people might sound too formal in some situations. An important part of learning a language is learning the different styles or list of a language and when to use them. The language users will easily find slang expressions around, like in daily conversations, song-lyrics, or movie but the language users have no idea about what is the meaning of these words and what are the processes for forming them. Linguistically, the processes for forming these slang words can be called as slang word formation which is same with the word formation in Standard English.

Movies are the most popular entertainment besides books or games. Movies give the viewers new experiences and knowledge through its story in audio-visual way. The writer will describe about the slang words used in the first 45 minutes of “Easy A” Movie. Frommer and Finegan (2004:243) write that “The slang terms are often found in movies and music reviews, lifestyle pieces, and people columns. ”The writer chooses “Easy A” as her content of discussion because it is assumed that the use of slang can be found easily in this movie. The other reason for choosing this movie as the discuss topic because the movie is story about teen’s life in America. Krapp (1925:1) stated that according to Sherman, “British style is more structured because it derives from study of the classics, while American is more free and impulsive.” Because of the freedom of American people in using language, made American people used slang more than British people did. British people used standard and formal English much more than American people. In this case, British people speak more polite than American people do. Slang may act as euphemisms or teaser and may be used as identifier with one's peers. That is why slang is more popular in teenager’s environment.

B. The Problems of the Study

Based on the Background of The study, the problems of this study are as follows:

1. What are the slang words and their meanings used in the first 45 minutes of “Easy A”?

2. What are the types of word formation used for forming slang words in “Easy A”?
3. What is the dominant linguistic process used in “Easy A”?

C. The Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the slang words and their meanings used in the first 45 minutes of “Easy A.”
2. To derive the linguistic process forming the slang words used in “Easy A.”
3. To state the dominant linguistic process of slang used in “Easy A.”

D. The Scope of the Study

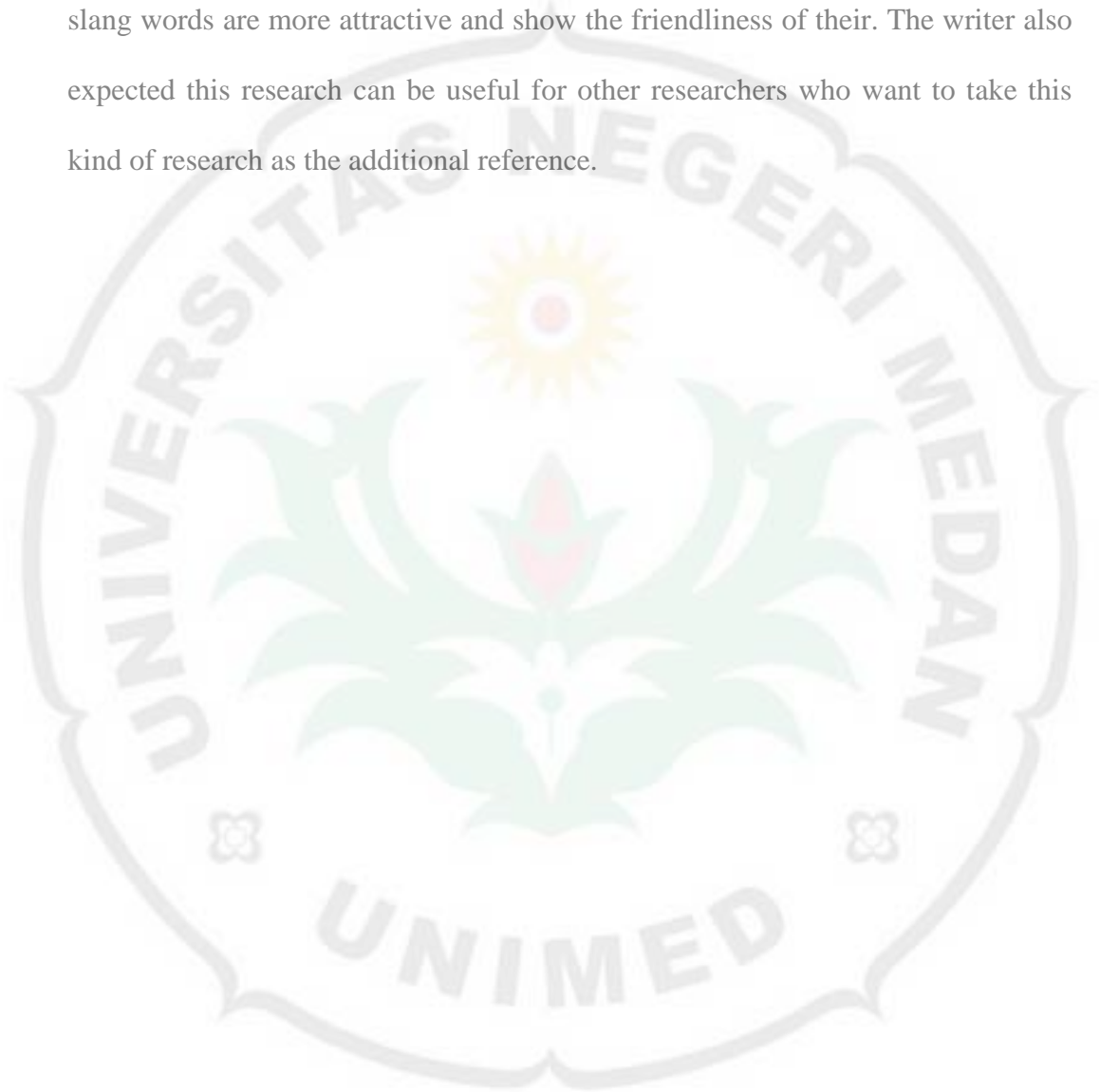
The scope of the study is focused on the linguistic processes which formed slang words used in the dialogue spoken by all characters in the first 45 minutes of “Easy A”. The analysis is done based on the theory of Yule (1985).

E. The Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the research findings of this study are expected to be useful for the enrichment for the relevant theory which is started by Yule (1985).

Practically, the research findings of the study are expected to be useful for other people who are interested in English especially slang language. As the writer has described above, native speakers use slang or informal language more than the formal one especially in a particular group of peers because teenagers are more expressive to show their complaints or sarcastic opinions. Also, the formal language usually used in a very formal situation. The natives also feel that these

slang words are more attractive and show the friendliness of their. The writer also expected this research can be useful for other researchers who want to take this kind of research as the additional reference.



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